

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the outstanding Office Action mailed January 20, 2010, in which a response date is set for April 20, 2010. Enclosed herewith is a one-month Petition for Extension of Time to extend the deadline up to and including May 20, 2010. Also enclosed herewith is a Request for Continued Examination to reopen prosecution of this application. Entry and consideration of the following remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-12 and 14-19, of which claims 1 and 12 are independent. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to distinctly claim that the slip and the solution are contained in separate and distinct tanks from one another. The amendments to claim 1 may be found throughout the specification and are also illustrated, for example, in Figure 1. The amendments to claim 12 may be found throughout the specification, and specifically, for example, at paragraph [0042], as well as being illustrated, for example, in Figure 1. Applicants assert no new matter has been added with these amendments. Entry and consideration of these amendments is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-11 and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,972,263 (Goodman et al.) as evidenced by Applicants' Specification.

Goodman et al. disclose, as cited by Examiner, slip casting using a slip which is initially mixed with solution. Generally, Cols. 1, 8, 9; Office Action, Page 2. Examiner next asserts that after the casting process, the slip and solution are separated by layers. Office Action, Page 3.

It is respectfully submitted that, as amended, each and every element of independent claim 1 is not disclosed in Goodman et al., as is required by 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Specifically, Goodman et al. do not disclose a slip initially contained in a first tank and a solution initially contained in a second tank distinct from the first tank, such that the solution in the second tank is distinct from the slip in the first tank.

Goodman et al. disclose a slip and solution which are mixed in a single tank prior to casting. Then, once casting occurs, the slip and solution are separated. Goodman et al. do not disclose housing the slip and solution in separate tanks prior to casting, as is claimed in this application.

Examiner likewise agrees that Goodman et al. only disclose this series of steps for casting. See Office Action, Pages 2-3.

The claimed invention, as amended claim 1, discloses that the slip and the solution are separate and distinct from one another, and in separate tanks, prior to casting. This element of claim 1 is clearly not disclosed in Goodman et al. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable in view of Goodman et al.

Claims 3-11 and 14-19 are all dependent on claim 1. If claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art then, by rule, dependent claims 3-11 and 14-19 must also be patentable by virtue of their dependence on claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

Next, Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Canadian Patent No. 2,124,863 (Marple et al.).

Marple et al. disclose a device to control the flow of a slip into a casting mold. The slip may also be a series of slips combined in a predetermined ratio.

It is respectfully submitted that Marple et al. do not disclose each and every element of amended claim 12 as is required by 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Specifically, Marple et al. do

not disclose a device including two independent injectors assigned to inject, into the mold, separately and alternatively, a slip from a first tank and a solution from a second tank through two distinct upstream paths.

Marple et al. merely discloses a slip, or multiple slips, passed through flowmeters and into a casting mold. Further, while Marple et al. does mention the casting can be done at increased pressures, it does not disclose whether the slips are passed to the casting mold at increased pressures nor does it disclose how the device could accommodate such increased pressures, as all of the disclosure discusses use of the device at normal pressures.

The claimed invention, in amended claim 12, however, includes a device with injectors - one for the slip and one for the solution - which inject each material under pressure into the casting. This is not disclosed in Marple et al. because Marple et al. only includes flowmeters meant to control the flow of each slip material to regulate the flow of each to attain a proper composition.

Moreover, Applicants assert that the device of Marple et al. could not be used in an application in which the materials were injected under pressure, as the device of Marple et al. is intended for regular casting under normal pressure. The Marple et al. device could not be used for increased pressure applications because it would not meet the requirements for the increased pressures in the system.

For at least these reasons, and those discussed in previous responses to previous Office Actions, Applicants respectfully submit that Marple et al. do not disclose the invention of amended claim 12, and as such, request this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate

condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: May 18, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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